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CONTENTS.

Editorial Notes: 417

Leading Article:

Village Communications and Material Development 420

Other Articles:

Peace Day! By G. K. 421

The Neighbour By 'Workman' 422

Topics From Periodicals:

Truth and Lord French 423

Economics in the West 424

Selection:

The Scarcity of Silver. 425

The Currency Committee 426

Advertisements: 427—432

We may be permitted to state that the views of our contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Wednesday Review.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Apart from the personal fitness of Mr. Habibullah to occupy the position to which he has been called, the appointment is welcome in that it marks a departure from the traditions which have hitherto governed such appointments. The Government are recognising though slowly that all administrative and executive skill and wisdom are not concentrated on the banks of the Cooum and they may be available in the districts also. It may be contended that the first Indian member of the Madras Executive Council, the Maharaja of Bobilli was a mofussilite. But then, if you want Maharajas, you connot have them in the purlieu of Mylapore or Egmore and have perforce to go to the mofussil for one. The Madras Government may be sure that there are men in the districts who will give as good an account of themselves as Executive councillors and administrators as any Madras lawyer, and perhaps bring to their work a fresher and more intimate knowledge of the conditions of life in the province than those, however capable, who divide their time between their office, the marina and the Cosmopolitan Club. We suppose the administration of the Empire is not carried on only by the Cockneys and in fact it is largely in the hands of those who come from distant parts of the United Kingdom. It is therefore in the interest of good government that leaders from the districts should be associated with it as far as possible. We congratulate the Madras Government on the good sense shown by them in appointing Mr. Habibullah and they will find that the infusion of mofussil blood in the administration will be greatly to its advantage.

A Madras contemporary is raising a storm over the publication in advance of it and other papers by the *Mail* of the news that Mr. Habibullah has been appointed to succeed Mr. Rajagopalachari and of the names of those who have been nominated to the Legislative Council. It wonders why the *Mail* had that advantage even over the Publicity Board. There is such a thing as journalistic enterprise and it may not be in the Publicity Board's line. The Board, at any rate in its infancy, cannot be expected to act on its own account and it has to await the pleasure of the Government. It has to get into its bearings before it can launch out for journalistic coups. Meanwhile the journalist with a nose for news will be first in the field and there is no use being angry at him. After all, the matter is not a State secret and its divulgence has not done anyone harm. It may have wounded the *amour propre* of some papers but they have no reason to grumble. If the representatives

of the other papers who feel aggrieved were as enterprising they would have been on a level with the *Mail* in publishing the news. In this connection it would appear there is some attempt in high quarters to find out who was responsible for the leakage. As for that, we may remind them of old Sancho Panza's saying that the cask as often leaks from the top as from the bottom. That was the consolation which a somewhat cynical colleague offered to Gladstone when a Cabinet secret leaked out and the great Minister was furious at an official subordinate whom he suspected of giving away the news. It all depends upon with whom the clever correspondent is chumming for the time being.

There was some very complacent speech-making at the meeting held the other day at Madras to protest against what is called the Punjab situation. The performance of the chairman was specially amusing. The speakers took themselves so seriously that they did not know what they were about. While they were in the thick of it so to say, it was suggested by an advanced politician among the audience that a resolution might be passed asking for the recall of the Viceroy who, it is supposed, gave his support to Sir Michael O'Dwyer's proceedings in suppressing the disorders. The chairman of the meeting gave out as his opinion that as a result of the findings of the Commission which Mr. Montagu has proposed to appoint Lord Chelmsford might be recalled and the meeting need not anticipate the Commission in the matter. For ridiculous self-complacency it is hard to beat this. The chairman has easily presumed that whatever Lord Chelmsford has done in helping to ease the situation in the Panjab has been so illegal that His Excellency should be impeached before Parliament, that the Commission would agree to all that was said at the Mahajana Sabha meeting, and Lord Chelmsford's recall was as good as settled. It is assumptions of this kind by the so-called leaders that give an air of unreality to public life in India and reduces it to a child's play.

Sir Frederick Nicholson is hopeful that a large fruit industry can be developed on the Nilgiris. He thinks that the conditions of climate are quite favorable to fruit-growing. The varied elevations and climates are admirably adapted in his opinion to growing fruits of all classes and of the best quality. At present it would appear there is no serious attempt to grow fruit on a commercial scale but what is grown in private orchards and gardens shows the possibilities of the industry. Interviewed by a Press Representative Sir Frederick Nicholson said that the Government have under consideration a scheme for a model fruit farm where the possibilities of fruit-growing can be demonstrated. The idea is to run an experimental farm like the agricultural farms, and besides demonstration purposes the farm would be useful for the distribution of seeds, seedlings and young fruit trees to those who are willing to help in the production of high class fruit. Sir Frederick Nicholson also told the Press Representative that a fruit preserving factory would be an obvious adjunct in order to show the best methods of preserving the fruits so that they could be used other than in a fresh state, as jams and jellies, dessicated fruits etc. Sir Frederick Nicholson is not unduly optimistic and the wonder is why at least some among the capitalists, who have invested in tea and coffee plantations have not turned their attention as yet to an industry whose possibilities are obvious and assured. With enough capital and enterprise a great and flourishing industry can be built up, not only on the Nilgiris and other hill-stations but on the plains where good fruit like the mango and orange are grown but in a haphazard fashion without any idea as to its commercial possibilities. Grapes, mangoes, limes and oranges of the best quality may be raised at a great many places, and it is well-known that the Moguls were great vine-growers and the remnants of the gardens they planted still exist. There is a large demand for fresh fruit from India in European markets and if only a supply is assured the demand will never slacken. Besides fruit preserving factories, provision should be made on the railways and on ships for cold-storage, which is absolutely essential for the transport of fruit from one place to another in a tropical climate like India. The question of cold-storge has been engaging the attention of the Railway Conference for sometime past and Mr. Muirhead the late Agent of the South Indian Railway, made pointed reference to the subject in his speech at the Conference some six years ago. It is not known what has been done in the matter. We have no doubt that the Railways and the Steam-ship companies will do whatever they can to help on the fruit industry. Here is abundant scope for Indian enterprise and it is up to Indian capitalists to step in and build up a great industry.

The Madras Government have just issued an order allowing local boards to utilise the unspent balances out of the sums allotted for the sinking of wells for drinking water, on objects such as the construction of drains, latrines, filling up of insanitary ponds, disused wells, provision of burial grounds, opening up of sanitary roads and provision of additional land for village sites. The order is welcome as it gives some discretion to the local authorities to decide what urgent sanitary wants have to be attended to in the areas under their control. There is a balance of nearly 10½ lakhs out of the grants made from time to time for the provision of drinking water wells. For

various reasons the grants could not be spent and the Government think it will be a long while for such a large balance to be spent on the purpose for which it was originally intended. Well-sinking is slow work and it can be undertaken only in certain months in the year. It cannot be hurried without wasteful expenditure which the Government are anxious to avoid. As the grants ear-marked for well-sinking cannot be spent and have therefore to remain idle, the Government permit the local boards to use the unspent grants on objects mentioned above. Of them we will place the opening up of village roads as the most important. In our leading article we deal at some length with the subject of the improvement of village communications which are at present neglected by the local bodies. It will be seen how largely the subject bears on the agricultural and industrial development of the province generally. We trust therefore that the local boards will realise the importance of improving village communications and spend the grants now made to them out of the unspent 10½ lakhs on their improvement.

Lord Selborne is reported to have stated that the Joint-Committee was not inquiring into the state of India or government of India and only evidence within the scope of the bill and representing large interests would be heard. We are afraid Lord Selborne has entirely misunderstood the primary object of the Joint-Committee. What responsible men both in India and in England who cannot appreciate the mad haste of Mr. Montagu in rushing the reform bill through Parliament have been urging upon the British Cabinet is that it is more important for Parliament to have unmistakeable evidence to prove the need of the reforms of the kind proposed by Mr. Montagu and to ascertain if any large class of the population have clamoured for reforms in the administration which would place the British element at a discount and entrust the country to the hands of the agitators and anarchists. The present Governor of Bombay in a speech at the House of Commons insisted upon evidence being produced for the necessity of reform before particular schemes could be discussed. The Joint-Committee, if it should justify its appointment, must call in evidence to satisfy itself that reform is necessary and delay will mean a cataclysm in India. It is the bogey of a cataclysm which has been assiduously trotted out by Mr. Montagu and his henchmen, and Parliament ought not to fall an easy victim to it. Lord Selborne will be simply shutting out the truth about the reform if he should admit only evidence within the scope of the bill. Mr. Montagu has all along manœvured for it and Lord Selborne ought not to play into his hands unwittingly. His Lordship is reported to have said that the Joint-Committee was not inquiring into the condition of India. If it did not, the Joint-Committee would be false to the best interests of India and betraying them to those who are anxious to uproot the British connection and create endless trouble in India. We should trust that Lord Selborne will reconsider his hasty decision and give every opportunity to those who can place before the Committee the true facts of the situation here.

The recommendations of the Crewe Committee are calculated to make an unmitigated autocrat of the Secretary of State. We don't see the purpose or rather the fun of a big committee deliberating for long on the subject if its recommendations would free the Secretary of State of all control. The Committee might have said so at the outset and spared itself further trouble. The Committee proposes that the powers and authority now vested in the Secretary of State for India in Council should be transferred to the Secretary of State. It is about the most sweeping and irresponsible proposal that was ever made by a responsible Committee. It would seem that the Crewe Committee has been led by the nose by Mr. Montagu who is anxious to reform the administration of India out of all recognition and wants a free hand to accomplish that doubtful end. Even the faddists here who have been agitating for the abolition of the India Council never ventured to suggest that the Secretary of State should be made an autocrat. The Crewe Committee seems to be more revolutionary than the most irresponsible agitator in India who has thirsted all these years for the blood of the India Council. All the check which the Committee seeks to provide for, is that an Advisory Committee should be appointed to which the Secretary of State shall refer such matters as he may determine. That is to say, if an impatient Secretary of State suspects that the Advisory Committee may not agree with him on a particular question, he need not refer it to the Committee at all. If he choses he may reduce the Committee to absolute impotence. We don't see the logic of appointing such a Committee, whose members may total to a dozen and receive a salary of 1200 £ a year each. It will be so much good money thrown away on a body with no work to do. If the Secretary of State happens to be an impatient idealist like Mr. Montagu he will surely develop into an insufferable autocrat and if he is weak or incompetent, India will be ruled by a coterie of the Committee who may have the ears of the Secretary of State for the time being. The Crewe Committee's recommendations will reduce the administration of India to a game of chance and our trusting to luck in getting the right kind of minister for our Secretary. Sir James Brunyate who has written a dissenting minute on the subject shows a better grasp of the problems which the Crew Committee was asked to discuss. He adduces very sound reasons for the retention of the India Council and he says that his main reason for wishing to keep the Council intact is that the intention to maintain the present control and influence of the Council, under proper limitations aud to accord the Government of India when necessary legitimate support of Parliament through its representative the Secretary of State may not seem to be placed in doubt.

THE
Wednesday Review

WEDNESDAY, 6 AUGUST, 1919.

VILLAGE COMMUNICATIONS AND MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THAT the lack of improved communications stands in the way of the material development of the country has found one more illustration in the report furnished by Mr. G. H. Tipper, an Assistant Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India on the possibilities of working certain mines in the Nellore District. He mentions that a steam-boiler was bought at Nellore for a sum of Rs. 3000 and to get it to the mine from Gudur Railway Station a distance of twelve miles, cost Rs 2000, or two-thirds of the value of the boiler. This is only one instance out of several where the cost of handling machinery over bad roads or no roads to be more correct, is so excessive that no one cares to indent for heavy machinery for prospecting or other purposes. It is the lack of good roads that accounts for the paucity of applications for oil-engine installations for agricultural purposes by landholders who live in the outlying parts of a district. Machinery may break on the way or become imbedded, costing the department concerned or the ryot who ordered it a large sum for getting it out. The village communications are sadly neglected and offer no incentive to the agriculturist to lay out on installations or other machinery to improve his holding. There is no use depending upon local bodies to attend to the improvement of village roads. Their constitution is such that there is hardly any one to interest himself in the matter. The fact is most of the members who constitute the local boards are town-dwellers, and if they came from the outlying villages they would realise in what scandalous state are the village roads and how neglected they are. It may be remembered that when the subject was brought up at a recent meeting of the Madras Legislative Council, the Hon. P. Rajagopala Chariar declined to ear-mark grants for improving village communications and wanted to leave the matter entirely to the local bodies on the ground that such ear-marking was bad in principle and would unduly interfere with the development of a sense of responsibility in them. The honorable member took an altogether wrong line of argument. When grants from the Provincial Funds are ear-marked for sanitation, education and like objects, and the local bodies are enjoined to spend them on those objects only, it is illogical to contend that grants should not be ear-marked or the purpose of improving village communications. If special grants are not made for the purpose and the local bodies are not enjoined to spend them on it, it is idle to expect that village communications will be properly attended to. It is a wrong notion that good roads to villages are a luxury and the villager will be content to use the country cart tracks for all his purposes. The villager's contentment is not the standpoint from which this question is to be looked at. It is a serious economic question which has an intimate bearing upon the agricultural and industrial development of the country generally. It is notorious that large tracts of fertile land are lying practically waste or are indifferently cultivated in the remote parts of the districts, away from any decent communications and practically inaccessible from the urban centres. If these lands which are specially fit for raising cotton or sugar cane are brought under cultivation by improved implements, they will considerably add to the material wealth of the country Small ginning presses and suger cane mills may be installed so that the produce from the fields may be treated on the spot and sent to the markets. The absence of good roads operates with a double disadvantage. Sugar-cane and cotton grown in remote villages are not easy of transportation to the markets; either they are wasted at the places where they are raised or sold at nominal prices as the ryots have no facilities to stock them properly and are anxious to get rid of them as quickly as possible. And again it is impossible to transport the necessary machinery to these places, and the firms which sell them do not care to accept the risk of taking it over bad roads. The improvement of village communications is no light matter and it is sure to cost a great deal of money. Occasional doles and grants from the Provincial Funds to stray local bodies will be no solution. The problem ought to be treated comprehensively and what is more as a serious economic problem. It ought not to be handled as some unessential luxury to the remote villager. The requirements of all villages in a district the opening up of which by good roads will result in an increased material output must be studied and the task must be entrusted not to local bodies which have to attend to other concerns which in their opinion may be more important but must be entrusted to a special committee. If the whole of the cost cannot be thrown on the provincial revenues, some means should be devised to find fuuds for the proper development of village communications A small cess may be levied according to the requirements of each village and be spent only upon the improvement of the communications. No one who feels the want of good roads and suffers from bad roads will grudge to pay a cess and will look upon it as a hardship or unnecessary burden imposed upon him by an avaricious Government.

PEACE DAY!

By G. K.

It was Peace Day in India! There was warm Peace in the gargeous splendour of the afternoon sun shine and the slightly whispering breeze that was playing through the tree-tops. An impatient *Koeel* lover was calling his mate somewhere from the mango tree near by. One of those delightfully drowsy days, a balmy afternoon when you like to sit in a deeply-cushioned chair and love to gaze at the glow and sparkle of sunlight on the surrounding landscape and feel the soft silence spread around you everywhere thinking nothing, doing nothing.

That was what the Collector Mr. James Rollandson of T—town, thought and felt as he sat in his cool verandah with his fair-haired smiling happy wife, who seemed to be engrossed more than himself in watching the witchery of sunbeams through a distant lime tree in the garden.

Neither talked. But both silently wooed the peace that glowed in the sunshine and crept into the twigs and branches of the trees and whispered tenderly through the sun-lit leaves. Their united souls skipped over the little white pools of sun-shine on the dawn and perched over the tender twigs from tree to tree in the dappled shadows with a pair of sprightly sparrows that chirruped the glorious message of peace to selfish Humanity. Mr. and Mrs. Rollandson drank in the atmosphere in deep delight and followed the track of the two wittering sparrows as they hopped from twig to twig and played hide and seek in the dappled land of light and shadows. There was unutterable peace!

Mrs. Rollandson could not suppress an exclamation "Jim!" chimed her musical voice. "I wish every one was so happy as we are to-day!"

Mr. Rollandson turned to her with a smile as if he heard a musical echo of his own thoughts.

"Yes, dear!? I feel I could bless the whole world and banish selfishness and strife out of it for ever—if."

"If it were possible"? I know Jim!" responded his wife with a woman's practical way. Mrs. Rollandson was proud of her husband. She knew he had a heart of gold.

"We have done our best and we shall strive to do our best always to the poor' said she" I wish I could do something more than the grant of a month's pay to our servants. I am going out on a visit to the poor to the little cottages over there at the end of the town to give them pice this evening.

"What a good idea that" agreed Mrs. Rollandson.

When the gorgeous Peace Day mellowed into golden evening Mrs. Rollandson's shining coppers were in every palm of the ragged happy crowd. They had besieged her and clung to her for a bit more and more. Her slim white elastic figure was followed by the ragged mob of men, women and children with faces lighted up with unspeakable joy as she returned to her bungalow. The naked curly-headed urchins closed around her and begged for more. She good-humouredly stopped and clinked a few more coppers into their tiny palms. Their dusky faces broadened with a happy grim which amused Mrs. Rollandson not a little. She wanted to please the young hearts as much as she could on the peace-day. A smile like that was so rare to be seen on the faces pinched with poverty and misery.

Mrs. Rollandson was fairly flushed with the pleasant excitement of it all. She felt blessed as she stood on the steps of the verandah in the golden twilight watching the dusky crowd who were gratefully salaaming her and her husband.

An old old trampish looking fellow from amongst the grateful crowd asked them to prostrate themselves before the kind sahebs and pray for their long life.

Mrs. Rollandson was visibly moved the crude but none the less sincere demonstrations of the grateful people touched her heart.

Mr. Rollandson was curiously interested. The poor had been brought too near his doors by his enthusiastic wife. He had a heart and needed only somebody more often than not his own dear Emily, to touch the proper chord.

He stood beside his wife and smiled pleasantly at the poor ones whose eyes were curiously staring at the white couple-the white man and woman in India.

He lifted up his right hand a if he was going to bless the upturned faces.

"You have a just King. He has asked us to make you happy. We have made you happy. Pray for our King's long life!" said Mr. Rollandson in a solemn deep resonant voice full of feeling, in words they could understand.

The crowd caught his words 'Long life to our good King and our sahebs!" rose the voices of men women and children deep exhilarating and resonant as that of the Collector. The crowd melted and marched out slowly out of the gate. There were tears in the eyes of Mrs. Rollandson.

It is, indeed, the happiest day whispered the husband with a catch in his voice "Peace-day! whispered the wife and nestled in his arms as they both entered the dimly lighted drawing-room.

THE NEIGHBOUR.

BY "WORKMAN."

The Optimism that carries us through 'Difficulties' Impersonated in Gannesha the remover of difficulties and enables us to keep smiling is that pewer of Intelligence that recognises the transitory nature of checks to happiness. For there are several ways out, if a man thinks the world can go round without his turning the handle.

Ellwood Hendrick in 'The world's work' for May last points to Literature and Science to stave off the disgust humanity feels with itself at times, especially when it begins to educate itself and furiously to 'think'.

If uplift of the species is to depend on University lore, Science might say Eugenics ought to be a first subject to be passed in by all candidates for matrimony. Unfortunately it is last thing 'Desire' would bother about; yet the responsibility is clearly not on the children but on the parents for disclaiming it.

If happiness is only perceived in realising the beauty of things, then everyone can be happy who understands himself and the Divine order that rules the occurrences that happen. Literature shows us what has happened and what has been beautiful or ugly. Science helps us to become ugly and unattractive or beautiful and magnetic, according to the use made of it. It is not the individual we care for so much as the Spirit directing his will. The Zoroastrian tells him his will is the switch that turns on his personal magnetism to thoughts good or evil, and attracts or repels Humanity.

Every thing has danger in it when we overstep the useful limit of its application. To know when we are doing this, is one of the highest sciences, not learned from Literature only, but from the magnetic attraction or repulsion following or accompanying contact with people over work or pleasure.

The trend of modern thought led by Literature and Science is to draw exaggerated pictures of sublimity in the ideal of Unity, and ever present contact of peoples professing to love one another. Dr George Sarton engaged in Scientific research in the Carnegie Institute of New York says— "No real scientific education exists as yet" And again—"The intellectual *Elite* is divided into two groups" which he calls 'Literary' and Scientific' "Literature lets the light into the past, Science into the present and demands a profunder need for 'precision' in facts"

If common sense tells us the above has general application, the Scientists who have dived into the innermost secrets of Nature confirm the evidence of our senses. These show that the system of forces in universal operation are identical in Nature, evidencing attraction and repulsion, the same as that which preserves the balance of the planets revolving round the Sun. There is no advantage to humanity in Unity except it results in a mass being moved in a right direction. But it does not follow that the units revolving round a Centre should not exercise their intelligence to time their pace in the orbit.

If this ideal is at the bottom of the 'League of 'Nations' so ably commended by the Allied Statesmen, it shows us the scientific basis of world government and organisation that combines spiritual Unity with diversity in movement for practical work purposes.

The League may perhaps at this stage be better understood if we take it as applying to Europe first. It requires little science to tell everybody that what sustains humanity comes from the Land without the stores of a preceeding harvest neither Labour or Capital could operate. It is therefore the protection of the workers on a given area or Land that has to be first considered, and that their food supplies may not be raided and plundered. Here we come to Eugenics, and the obvious obligation for protected States to keep their populations within the capacity of the land and its scientific exploitation to feed the people. Next if a State expects to contribute materials and manufactures to the world and hopes to get food in exchange, it must keep the world in the humour to make the exchange. At this stage we arrive at love to the neighbours. But the result of organised capital and Labour, exerted with great activity and directed by science ends in a great accumulation of power. The State accelerates its speed and completes its orbit in less time. The pace can be kept up—*if* the neighbours will cooperate by contributing food while manufactures are being produced. The world wants these. No state likes to be left behind in the competition for power and excellence of uplift.

Those possessing power and knowing the Divine source of it do not misuse it, but desire to extend its material benefits to the whole world. The competition to do so becomes keen. The means employed are diverse, and often dubious and sly. Illicit profits may be gained by sedition and destructive literature. It will produce demand for arms and ammunition. Populations not kept within bounds may raid the whole earth. No need for law or order. The 'freedom' which the Almighty has not vouchsafed to any portion of His Creation from the Laws of motion may be secured for Humanity if it will only bury its 'talent' and not use the wits the Creator has given it, to govern its progress and make life a constant joy.

If we do not join in a general pandemonium by choice we may be hurried into it, if we one and all do not take up our obligations to prevent it. This is the KEY NOTE of our Champion Statesmen

workman Lloyd George's Speech explaining the Science of World-Government to Parliament. The Scientists of all Countries must be heartily invited to follow up; and certainly India can take a front place in this matter.

It may be truly said that India is in a position to mother the world; and it is the recognition of the fact by Great Britian that has led to the policy of protection of India from attacks by European powers. This policy is not likely to to be altered as long as the Intelligentcia of both countries arrange a Scientific basis for Co-operation.

Formerly Continents were separated by obstacles to Coperation. The best friends are not necessarily those in constant contact. A few traders visiting at long intervals formed the contact. Now Science has brought Steam, Petrol, Electricity, and Chemistry, to exercise force; and arrangements have to be made for conducting the world's work on a scientific plan, that will prevent undue advantage being taken of these forces, as has occurred owing to the action of Germany, ending in the entire destruction of the whole Co-operative machinery for producing and distributing the food in the most advance portions of Europe.

Here is the object that should draw all the world's Scientist out of their dens to arrange for the world's work and Government.

They have the facts of History to guide them nd the problem of making right use of the Sciences known to date is ever present. It is in the right Spirit and Practice of work with the Neighbour that happiness is to be found, and we are sufficiently reminded of it by the Greatest Scientist of all Time when he said Love the Neighbour as Thyself.

TOPICS FROM PERIODICALS.

TRUTH AND LORD FRENCH.

A PLAIN TALE AND ROMANTIC FANCIES.

A month has passed since the country rang with Mr. Aspuith's exposure of Lord French's Romantic serial, and Lord French still remains silent. He remains silent for an obvious reason. He has nothing to say. He has been convicted of as reprehensible a course of conduct as any man in public life was ever guilty of and he can find no word to say in his defence. And being what he is he dees not frankly admit the wrong he has done and apologise to those he has so wantonly traduced. That being so, the world would have preferred to forget him. But he will not let it forget him. To-day he republishes his "Daily Telegraph" articles in book form. One appearance in the pillory is not enough for him. He insists on pillorying himself again and asking for a second exposure.

LE CATEAU.

The purpose of the book is plain enough. It is to anticipate the disclosures that are imminent, to create an atmosphere of prejudice in his favour and to mobilise his friends. He dedicates his book to Mr. Lloyd George in terms of flatulent adulation and prints a preface by Marshal Foch whose few words of formal civilty will not go far in rehabilitating him. The key to Lord French's intention, as I said in dealing with the articles when they appeared in the "Daily Telegraph" is to be found in treatment of the battle of Le Cateau. In his despatch written a fortnight after the battle, he gave extravagant praise to General Smith-Dorrien, spoke of the "glorious stand of the British troops," and said 'without hesitation that the saving of the left wing of the Army under my command could never have been accomplished unless a commander of unusual coolness, intrepidity, and determination had been present to personally conduct the opertion.

That was his view when the facts were fresh in his mind and when there was no ulterior motive to serve. What does he say about Le Cateau in the book? The battle has become a misfortune. "The effect upon the British Army was to render the subsequent conduct of the retreat more difficult and arduous." And to make out his case he says that the total loss was "at least 14,000 officers men about 80 guns," etc. The figures are false. Every gun has been accounted for in Major Becke's analysis of the fight compiled from the official records, and the total loss was 36. As to casualties they numbered at the maximum 5000. The facts are notorious in the Army. If Lord French does not know them, he must have taken great pains not to know them.

Now why does he, nearly five years after the event, say that General Smith-Dorrien so far from saving of the British Army, gravely imperilled its retreat? Why does he support this change of view by grossly inaccurate figures? The explanation is obvious. Lord French's book deals with two episodes, the retreat and the shells incident. The rest is mere common place. Let us take the retreat first. When Lord French wrote his despatch he did not know that he would have a very unpleasant incident to explain later on, and that to explain it he would need to throw an entirely new light on the meaning of Le Cateau. He could do General Smith-Dorrion justice then. Why cannot he do him justice now? We shall see.

And in order to understand clearly, let us consider another personal issue. Lord French turns his guns not only upon General Smith-Dorrien who is living, but who has been refused permission to reply by a Government which has no word of rebuke for Lord French's outrage upon decency and discipline; he turns them upon Lord-Kitchener who is dead and upon whom the same Lord French delivered an unqualified eulogium in the House of Lords. He attacks him because of his visit to France on September 1. says he (French) "deeply resented" being called away from the field to Paris to meet him and charges his dead Chief with asserting his right to exercise the power and authority of a commonder-in-chief in the field." This is transparently false. Lord Kitchener summoned Lord French to Paris to avoid

the appearance of interfering with his authority in the field. Had he wished to assert authority in the field he would have gone to headquarters. Lord French knows this but he thinks the public will not know it. He is mistaken.

FRENCH'S THREAT.

But why had Lord Kitchener suddenly gone to Paris? The battle of Le Cateau had been fought on August 26. All unprejudiced military opinion justifies Smith-Dorrien's action in fighting the battle agrees that he had no real alternative and that if he had not given battle the losses in retreat would have been at least as serious and would have been sustained without the enormous compensating advantage of having checked the German advance. Three days later, August 29' the French fought the battle of Guise. In his despatch French said, It was not a part of General Joffre's plan to pursue the advantage." But in his book he tells another tale. On the afternoon of that day Joffre came to him at Compiegne and asked him to hold his ground. He peromptorily refused on the ground that his Army was not in a condition to stand. The next day Joffre repeated his appeal to French to stand and again French refused. On that day, August 30 French wrote a letter to Kitchener in which according to his book (p 94) he said.

"I feel very seriously the absolute necessity for retaining in my hands complete independence of action and power to retire towards my base should circumstances render it necessary,"

Mr. A. G. Gardiner in the *Daily News*.

ECONOMICS IN THE WEST.

DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC WELDING.

Since the war ended we have been hearing a good deal about the wonders accomplished in various departments of applied science with the help of recent inventions. Take electric welding as an example. By means of this process something like miracles were worked or what at all events a few years ago would have been regared as miracles. When the Germans damaged the engines of their ships in New York harbour so as to render them useless for the Allies, they thought that they had put them out of gear to such an extent as to prevent their employment for years. But the United States Naval construction department by means of welding were able to restore something like thirty ships to service without the casting of a single cylinder. The majority of steel tyres and rims used by the Army Transport Department during the war were electrically welded, one firm alone supplying approximately two million rims of this character. In the construction of locomotive boilers and tanks in the United States in 1918, it is estimated by a competent authority that the saving in metal alone owing to the adoption of electric welding armounted to £ 600,000. In the future we may expect that this method of construction will be more and more used in industry, more especially in the engineer- and shipbuilding establishments where it has already proved its worth. It is satisfactory to know that we have achievements such as this development of electric welding to set against the record of official muddling revealed in the Chepstow shipyards.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION.

Arrangements are steadily proceeding for the developmant of civil aviation under the friendly agis of the Government. In this connection General Seely made quite a remarkable Parliamentary statement at the end of last week. The minister for aviation sketched in a fascinating way the possibilities of the future and lifted the curtain on what is being officially done to meet the demands of the Peace Age. While he was cautious in estimating the rate of progress that the science will make, he distinctly outlined a wonderful picture of enterprise. Aerodromes being established on the Cape to Cario route, a mail route to India *via* Cairo vitually settled and measures for the linking up of the Empire by aviation—these are some of the features of an epoch-making speech. In regard to construction, General Seely made some interesting revelations. Apparently we have on the stocks either near completion or in an active stage of construction, new types of aeroplanes which are expected to do very remarkable things and not least in the matter of speed. On the whole it is believed that in aviation we are distinctly taking the lead and there is a very confident expectation that with the advantage which we derive from the possession of the control of the principal air routes of the world we shall be able to maintain it. The one obscurity in an otherwise clear and admirable exposition related to the bridging of the Atlantic. Concerning this the air minister was distinctly vague. Doubtless we shall wake up one morning to find that some venturesome spirit or spirits has own across the ocean and brought New York into two days reach of London. Whether the flight will be from the West to the East or from the East to the West is an interesting matter for speculation. The chances are in the favour of American crossing as the wind and weather conditions favour this direction for the flight.

SOME INDUSTRIAL BY-PRODUCTS.

How immensely valuable are some of the by-products of industry has been demonstrated over and over again during the war. One of the most intersting revelations of this character was made recently at the Society of Arts when Mr. Edward de Segundo read a paper on the "Removal of the Residual Fibres from Cotton Seed" and their value

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for non-textile purposes. In the lecture room was installed one of the machines invented by Mr. Segundo for removing residual fibre from Indian cotton seed and the lecturer explained lucidly the system by which the residual short fibre which escaped the gin or other saw linting machines was made available for various purposes. Thousands of tons, Mr Segundo stated, had already been employed in the manufacture of explosive, paper, artificial silk and other cellulose derivatives. In illustration of the infinite variety and the valuable character of the uses to which the material may be put he exhibited samples of cotton seed flour, loaves of bread made with a mixture of cotton seed flour and wheat flour and paper, artificial silk and vulcanized fibre. As over 95 per cent of the 11,000,000 tons of cotton seed produced annually is of the woolly type there is clearly a wide range for this new industry. Mr. Segundo dealt in an interesting fashion with the possibilities of his invention as concerns the Indian trade. Pointing out that by defibrating and decorticating woolly cotton seed instead of crushing it whole a higher return per ton of seed was obtained in the cotton seed oil industry he stated that there were other advantages in denuding the seed of its woolly covering. The defibrated seed would command a premium above the price ruling for the undefibrated. The cost of freight from India to British markets would be lower, due to the closer bulking of the defibrated seed. The risk of seed heating on the voyage would be minimised and consequence the danger of fire. Mr. Segundo went on to say that considerable additional revenue per ton orginal weight of seed shipped from India to British markets would be derived by defibrating the seed in India before shipment. The products obtainable from the available quantity of cotton seed in an average crop in India, if wholly employed in the production of oil and cake, and if the residual fibres were turned to account, ought to be worth on the basis of pre-war values and after deduction of all manufacturing expenses, about £ 7 per ton of seed compared with £ 3 per ton, the estimated value of the seed previously under similar conditions. This represented a potential increase in revenue of about £ 6,000,000. It hardly needs to be added that if this invention of Mr. Segundo is in any respect equal to the character claimed for it it will revolutionise coton planting especially in India which is peculiarly adopted for the employment of the new system.

The British margarine industry is one of the most important industrial by-products of the war. Before the outbreak of hostilities the home market was all most entirely dependent upon foreign; chiefly German, Dutch agencies for its supplies of this valuable domestic product. These alien firms thought their interests were best served by sending their supplies to Germany rather than to England with the result that our Government was driven to establishing factories under its own supervison and control for the manufacture of margarine. Possessing the control of supplies as the authorities did they were able to ensure a continuous supply of raw material for the establishments. Soon the public were being furnished with excellent margarine at reasonable cost, a most valuable advantage in view of the great scarcity of butter all over Europe. Now the supplies are larger than the domestic demand and exports are being made to central countries. There seems little reason to doubt that the margarine industry has come to stay. It will probably prove an important factor in imperial development and help to remove the reproach which has long rested upon British industry that it allowed staple raw material produced within the Empire to become the practical monopoly of foreigners.

The Mysore Economic Journal.

SELECTIONS.

THE SCARCITY OF SILVER.

In a report just to hand from the United States a very careful analysis of future silver possibilities is made by Messrs. Coleman and Reitze. Indications are given that present prices by no means represent the highest point that silver will reach.

Silver proved the sensation of the year 1918 with the greatest world demand in history, the smallest production since 1891 and consequently the highest prices since that year.

World consumption of silver approximated 375 million ounces, overtopping all previous records more than 50 per cent. Most of the demand fell in the last eight months of the year. World production of new silver is estimated between 145 and 150 million ounces more than 200 million ounces less new silver was produced than was consumed. The balance of silver used came from melting down silver dollars in the United States Treasury, and melting upward of $ 40,000,000 of Mexican silver pesos. Our Pittman Act, passed April 23, 1918, authorised the melting of 350 out of 495 million silver dollars in the United States Treasury, containing 270.690,000 ounces silver buillion, and the sale of his silver bullion at the Government fixed price of $ 1 per five ounce, later modified upward to $1-01¾. By October 1, over 194,000,000 of the silver dollars were reported melted, and the entire authorized supply appears destined for exhausion by February 1919, at recent rates of melting.

PRICES AND PROD[illegible]N.

Production of new silver has fallen steadily notwithstanding continually advancing prices for the white metal since 1915. The price averaged 49·7 cents in 1915 (lowest in world's history,) and world production that year was 209,931,827 ounces (74,946,000 ounces in [illegible] S.). In 1917 the price climbed another 16 [illegible] an ounce to 81·7 cents average for the year [illegible]oduction was 159.444,500 ounces (72,744,500 [illegible]n U. S.) In September 1917, the price re[illegible]dern record height of

$1·15½ in San Francisco. Then the price suddenly collapsed to 85 cents on report that the United States Treasuary would melt silver dollars and fix the price of silver at 85 cents, at the request of Great Britain. On protest of American silver mines a compromise was reached at $1. The price was accordingly fixed by the Government at $1, early in 1918, and advanced to $1·01⅛ in the summer. The average price for the year 1918 was close to 97 cents. World production fell off in 1918 to between 145 and 150 million ounces (67,879,000 ounces in United States). The Government had restricted demestic users of silver in the photoplating and other industries to 75 per cent of their normal needs. Very drastic restrictions against export of silver were also enforced to prevent it falling into German hands in neutral or other countries. In August export was prohibited except for direct payment on goods received, and then only for goods useful to the carrying on of the war. Exports of silver from the United States reached the stupendous total of $205,000,000, reported in Customs returns for eleven months. The exceeds world production and compares with $84,130,876 silver exports in 1917, and $ 70,595,037 in 1916, all these figures constituting successive new records in silver exports from the United States.

Reasons for the Adance.

The original cause of the sensational advance in silver in 1916 and 1917 was the Mint demand in belligerent countries for actual coinage of silver pieces, gold having been withdrawn from circulation. Every year since 1915 new silver coniage has exceeded world production of new sliver and for years to come such coinage is expected in well-informed circles to exceed world production and even then the new silver money will form only a drop in the bucket, so to speak of the world's needs for the hard money. A new demand for silver set during the fall of 1917 in the form of unusually large requirements to facilitate the settlement of trade balances due to India and China from United States merchants and others. About 80 per cent. of our enormous exports of silver in 1918 went in partial settlement of trade balances due to India and China. Our importers owed the Orient $283,679,129 on net trade balance for nine months of 1918, or nearly $ 32,000,000 per month. Before the war our net trade payments due to India were but 60 per cent. of this figure. In those days our debt to India was largely "cleared" *via* London, being matched against India debts to Britain and British debts for American cotton and other commodities, and the whole nearly balanced.

The three major demands are (1) the minting of silver coin to meet the deficiency in hard money, whether or not gold be restored to circulation; (2) the greatly inflated trade balance due from the world to India, which may be still more inflated when shipping is restored and Continental Europe re-enters the Indian markets—in 1912, Continental Europe owed British India $ 157,000,000 on net trade balances and $159,500,000 in 1913; (3) Europe and the United States must buy silver as a backing of security to give some semblance of value to several bill…s of unsecured paper money, or "shin-pas… …d in 1916-7-8.

Price Restr…tions Still Binding.

Since the armistice our Government has removed the restrictions against the use of silver in our domestic arts and industries, but it has not yet removed any restrictions against export of sliver. and has done nothing toward removing price restrictions, not even since …ts fixed prices on steel, lead zinc and other metal …d commodities were abandoned.

Our silver producers want the Government to remove price restrictions on silver, and this would help Australia, too, and Canda. Removal of price restrictions would lift the price of silver in compliance with the most ordinary laws of supply and demand. The demand for silver metal, and at high prices, is immediate and pressing and will continue for years to come, being in this respect unlike copper, steel and other metals and materials. Th… is probably why the Government has treated silv… differently from the other metals, presumably, if allowed to move upward in complaince with the laws of supply and demand, it would probably reach about $ 1·35 per ounce, at which point it would be cheaper to remelt silver coins, and at which point Government could no longer produce new silver coins at a profit.

The Wealth of India.

THE CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

The method by which the aims of the Exchange Standard System are realised is by artificially expanding or contracting the token internal currency. This is done by operating a gold and a silver reserve provided out of the profits of coinage, called the Gold Standard Reserve, in such a way that whenever the internal token silver currency, depreciates in value below that arbitrarily fixed, namely, 1*s*. 4*d*. the international gold currency, is released from that Reserve to the extent that is required to maintain the artificially fixed value of the internal currency, and that, *vice versa*, whenever the rupee appreciates or shows a tendency to appreciate above the rate fixed, internal token currency is provided, if necessary by resort to additional coinage.

It will be seen from this that the success of the system depends upon the provision of an adequate reserve of internal as much as of international currency and that this again depends on the choice of a satisfactory ratio between internal and international currency. We lay some emphasis on the latter point, because if the ratio be such as under it silver is an extremely over-valued metal, that is to say, if the face- value of the silver coin is fixed at a far higher level than its intrinsic worth, then it will encourage private coinage and if, on the other hand, it is an extremely under-valued metal, *i. e*, if the silver coin, the internal currency, is valued less than the silver contained in it is really worth, then there is the danger of its being meeted down and sold and at any rate of being hoarded putting Government to serious loss by their having to provide internal currency at losing prices.

The essential conditions on which the success of the Gold Exchange Standard System depends do not now obtain in the Indian currency system. The 1*s*. 4*d*. ratio, in the first place, so far as we

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could see at present, continues to be out of date: under it, and even under its present substitute, the 1s 8d. ratio, silver is a seriously under-valued metal and it is a point for serious consideration whether, as is reported to be the case in Hyderabad, this circumstance—trade expansion being, for purposes of this discussion, inconsiderable—is not to some extent responsible for the disappearance of the rupees and the increased expansion of our note issue; whether, in fact, Gresham's Law has not steadily been in operation, driving the under-valued currency out of circulation. Secondly, we have had no adequate silver reserve to maintain the exchange on the 1s. 4d. basis. Indeed, in pre-war days, many experts seem to have proceeded to consider the Indian currency question on the comfortable assumption that silver can be had for the mere asking at prices which, if they were higher than normal, would at any rate be considerably below that which would make the actual cost of the rupee greater than its fixed 1s. 4d. exchange value. It is this assumption that made the Secretary of State practically ignore the suggestion of the Government of India in a despatch in 1906 to provide for a reserve of rupees to meet sudden demands of trade and thus maintain the exchange. It is, again, this assumption which led the Chamberlain Commission to recommend that no such silver reserve in the Gold Standard Reserve was necessary and that the six or seven million rupees accumulated in that reserve should be transferred to the Paper Currency Reserve in return for an equivalent amount from it in gold. The prophets have gone wrong and the subsequent events have shown how difficult it is to prophesy in these matters.

With the appreciation of silver and the inabillity of the Government to provide as much of it as wanted even with a 1s. 6d. rupee, with the expansion of the paper currency on a fiduciary basis from the pre-war fifty crores to the present 150 odd crores and the addition of new rupees to the tune, that is, of 120 crores in the past four years, with the demand for rupees still continuing in spite of restrictions on trade and with no hopes of meeting them to any considerable extent, it was time for Government to think of examining its policy, and re-casting it to suit the new situation. And they have appointed an expert Committee.

The terms of reference to the Indian Currency and Exchange Committee are as follows. "To examine the effect of the war on the Indian exchange and currency system and practice and upon the position of the Indian note issue, and to consider whether in the light of this experience and of possible future variations in the price of silver, modifications of system or practice may be required; to make recommendations as to such modifications and generally as to the policy that should be pursued with a view to meeting the requirements of trade; to maintain a satisfactory monetary circulation and to ensure a stable gold exchange standard." Sir Henry Babington smith, Chairman, Lord Chamers, Sir James Brunyate, Sir Marshall Reid, Mr. F. C. Goodenough, Sir C. Needham, Sir Charles Addis, Mr. D. M. Dalal, Sir Bernard Hunter, Mr. T. McMorrn and Mr. M. M. S. Gubbay constitute the personnel of the Committee. *Ths Wealth of India,*

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6—8—19. K. THIRUMALA THATHACHARY,
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